(c) What was Government's reaction and response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) During his visit to New Delhi on 17-18 January 2002, US Secretary of State Colin Powell expressed hope that the commitments made by President Musharraf in his speech on 12 January 2002 would create conditions for military and diplomatic deescalation of tensions and resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan. Government conveyed its expectation of concrete action on the part of President Musharraf on the specific demands made by India after the attack on the Parliament. Secretary Powell acknowledged that action must match words and Stated that if we can see actions across the Line of Control, if we can see these terrorist camps being shut down for real and not re-emerging and if we can see action on the list of 20—then I think conditions are in placed for the beginning of a dialogue.

Visit of Parliamentary Delegations to various countries

836. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Parliamentary Delegations consisting of MPs of both the Houses visited various countries recently;

(b) if so, the purpose of such visits;

(c) whether such visits have yielded the desired results; and

(d) if so, the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMARABDULLAH): (a) to (d) Seven high level delegations comprising members from both Houses of Parliament, distinguished scholars and former diplomats visited selected countries in Europe, West Asia, Gulf, South East Asia and Africa. One delegation also met with Members of the European Parliament in Brussels. The countries visited included Brunei, Indonesia, Nigeria, Belgium, South Africa, Kuwait, Jordan, Qatar, Tunisia, Oman, Egypt, UAE and Saudi Arabia.

The visiting delegations appropriately and effectively highlighted the fact that despited professing support to the international coalition against terrorism, Pakistan continues to sponsor cross border terrorism in India, and that this is

the main cause for tensions between India and Pakistan. The delegations also effectively conveyed that the December 13 attack on India's Parliament has once again highlighted the fact that Pakistan is the real epicenter of terrorism in the region, and that its policy of sponsoring terrorism can have grave consequences for both regional and international security. The delegations also conveyed India's desire for peaceful, friendly and cooperative ties with Pakistan and emphasized that Pakistan must end its use of terrorism as an instrument of policy towards India, so that appropriate conditions for the resumption of a meaningful dialogue are created.

All delegations were very well received by the hosts, and held meetings at high levels of government in the countries that they visited.

Chinese Premier's Visit to India

†837. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chinese Premier has visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of the bilateral discussions held and agreements signed between the two countries; and

(c) the details of the efforts made by Government to restore normalcy on the border and to recover Indian land under Chinese occupation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Chinese Premier Mr. Zhu Rongji paid an official visit to India from 13—18 January, 2002. He was accompanied by his spouse Madame Lao An, Mr. Zhang Zuoji, Minister for Labour and Welfare, Mr. Shi Guangsheng, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, and other senior officials. He visited New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Agra.

Premier Zhu's visit was part of continuing high level political exchanges between the two countries. His visit helped to further promote the development of bilateral relations.

In New Delhi Premier Zhu called on the President and the Vice President of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.